

TRADOC Turns

Story by Jim Caldwell

"I think you should train a man for the job he is going to perform, and then you can educate him so that the intellectual and moral environment in which he pursues his particular job will be enhanced."

— From "Changing an Army" by GEN William E. DePuy,
first commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command



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WHO'S responsible for excellence in training? Who's responsible for the man-machine interface to make sure units know what they're doing and how they're trained on their equipment? In fact, who's responsible for the organization of the Army the way it is now?" asks Jim Stensvaag, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command historian.

"It's all TRADOC."

Since its creation 30 years ago this month, TRADOC has been leading the Army into the future through training, developing officer and noncommissioned officer leaders, and creating materiel and doctrine that tells commanders and soldiers how the Army will fight.

"GEN DePuy and other leaders were already thinking about the post-Vietnam Army when TRADOC was activated in 1973," Stensvaag said.

"Before TRADOC, if new doctrine was written or a new piece of equipment came into the Army, there was no guarantee soldiers would be trained to reflect the changes," Stensvaag said. "GEN DePuy's focus was on

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- ▲ Job performance begins with the fundamentals, instilled in basic training and learned in TRADOC classrooms.
- ▲ TRADOC is responsible for the man-machine interface that ensures unit members know what they're doing and are properly equipped.

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command





making sure that each soldier was trained, knowing what he was supposed to do and how to use his equipment to do that job.”

DePuy led the study that resulted in the creation of TRADOC and Forces Command. He then became the first TRADOC commanding general.

TRADOC has maintained DePuy’s attention to training soldiers and leaders. The command is now changing its organizations and processes to lead the Army through Transformation as the agent for design of the objective force. Its leaders believe that as the Army transforms, TRADOC must be capable of responding correctly and quickly.

One of these leaders is Mike Starry, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine, Concepts and Strategy (DCS/DCS), who has seen how TRADOC has helped change the Army over a career spanning from 1971 through 1998.

✦ Training ensures that each soldier knows what he is doing, can use his equipment correctly and efficiently, and has confidence in his abilities.

✦ At 1,500 feet in the air, parachute rigger students await the command to jump using chutes they packed themselves.





Christie Vanover

Like all soldiers, health-care specialists train as a team and rely on the individual skills of each member.

Part of Starry's job is to help produce the "How-to-Fight" doctrine for the objective force. He helped create the "Army After Next" wargame in 1996 to try to see what the future might hold. That event became the "Army Transformation Wargame" involving the objective force, and this year it evolved into "Unified Quest 03," a TRADOC-Joint Forces Command collaboration, the first in a series of wargames to explore ways to carry out joint operations more smoothly and efficiently.

Based on experiences during his Army career and at TRADOC, Starry thinks that sound doctrine, quality individual training and excellent leader development, coupled with the best in equipment, led to success in recent military operations.

"I think the kind of operation we saw in Desert Storm, what we saw in Afghanistan and in Iraq in 2003, are logical extensions of a conceptual foundation laid down by TRADOC following the Vietnam War experience," he said. "It's a foundation focused on training quality soldiers

Together, training and doctrine prepare the Army for today's worldwide operations while anticipating future mission requirements.

and leaders for today's operations while at the same time anticipating the requirements of the future battle-space and leading the Army into the future."

"I think the quality of training the Army has gotten from TRADOC enabled them to respond in Operation Iraqi Freedom in such a way that they could go almost without pause," Stensvaag said.

"All of the issues we've struggled with over the last decade have matured, and some are becoming a reality in



An adaptable force built on team spirit and quality leadership begins with individual soldiers who are trained to accept challenges and expect success.

new doctrine, training, organizations and equipment," Starry added.

Both men believe that TRADOC, for as long as there is a U.S. Army, will continue facing the challenge of making sure the Army is ready for any mission. 

